Satellite based regional television service to States and Union Territories

1425. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and Union Territories in the country where the facility of satellite-based regional television service exists; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to extend this facility to other States and Union Territories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Satellite derived regional television service is, at present, available in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) Regional TV Service is envisaged to be provided in other States depending upon future availability of adequate space segment, allocation of necessary funds by the Planning Commission and *inter-se* priorities.

Abolition of contract labour

1426. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to tate:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been appointed by the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board to go into the question of abolition of Contract Labour work for loading and unloading etc. in Railways;

(b) whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) is answer to (b) be in negative, the reasons for delay in submitting the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The delay had occurred because of certain changes in the composition of the Committee. However, the present Member-Convenor has been directed to finalise the report early.

Pension scheme submitted by Hota Committee

1427. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee headed by Mr. Hota has submitted a pension scheme to the Board of Trustees overseeing the working of EPF and Miscellaneous Act 1952; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBT, Employees Provident Fund have considered the Report of the Committee and made certain recommendations which are presently under consideration of the government. The Scheme provides for payment of pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement and permanent disablement/death in service.

Placement of Physically Handicapped persons

1428. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of physically handicapped persons, in each category, who were given placements by the Employment Exchanges in Delhi and in other Union Territories during the last three year and till date;

(b) Whether the percentage of reservation for placements under the physically